2: Anonymous G-4,5 (no date) 1939 RB1 Baltic Countries RB1
Estonians R64

WAGES IN THE BALTIC COUNTRIES

BC 101

FOUR Baltic countries—Estonia, Finland, Latvia, and Lithuania—are related to one another not only by their geographical location on the eastern shores of the Baltic Sea but also by their historical background, for they all belonged to the former Russian Empire. Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania were merely provinces of that empire, but Finland was an autonomous state, although with considerably restricted autonomy.

BC 102

Of these countries, Finland is the largest in territory and population, having about 3,365,000 inhabitants, while Estonia is the smallest, with about 1,127,000 inhabitants.

BC 105 511

The level of industrial development and relations and of educational standards in the Baltic countries more nearly resembles that of Scandinavian than of any other European group of countries.[1] Also, although wages are lower in the Baltic countries, it is generally agreed that the cost of living is also lower than in the Scandinavian countries.

Wages in Estonia[2]

E 465 745

The wage rates as indicated in the following tables represent the wages as received by workers, and include deductions for sickness and accident insurance. For sickness insurance, the deduction is 2 percent of the wages, to which the employer adds 4 percent. For insurance against accident no deduction is made, but 1 percent is contributed to the insurance fund by the employer alone.

AGRICULTURE

E 465 241

The shortage of farm laborers in 1937 affected the wage situation in Estonian agriculture, causing the wages to rise. Thus, for example, the average monthly wages of male farm hands employed on a yearly contract increased from 22.10 krooni[3] in 1936 to 27.20 krooni in 1937, or 23 percent. For females the increase was 22 percent, their average monthly wage rate for 1937 being 19.50 krooni. Farm workers employed on a summer contract were paid the following average monthly wages in 1937: Male laborers, 38.10 krooni, female laborers 27.10 krooni, and herders 19.80 krooni, representing increases of 23 percent, 22 percent, and 19 percent from the corresponding figures for 1936. Table 1 gives the wages for farm laborers in 1937, employed on both yearly and summer contracts, according to age. Averages for workers aged 18 to 50 are also shown by years from 1933 to 1937.

[1] See Monthly Labor Review, November 1938, pp. 1137-1144: Wages and Hours in Scandinavian Countries, 1937-38.

[2] Report of Edward Hunt, clerk of American Consulate at Tallinn.

[3] Kroon (100 senti) in 1936 to 1938—about 27 cents, U. S. currency.

2: Milosz S-5 (no date)1953 El Europe
Baltic Countries RB1

ripening fruits of tomorrow through the telescope of History—that is asking too much. There must be, after all, some standard one dare not destroy lest the fruits of tomorrow prove to be rotten. If I think thus it is because for the last two thousand years or more there have been not only brigands, conquistadors, and hangmen, but also people for whom evil was evil and had to be called evil. Mass slaughter, the terror of revolution, the craze for gold, the misery of the working classes: who knows what dimensions these flaws might reach if every man believed he must keep silent and accept? In rebelling, I believe I protect the fruits of tomorrow better than my friend who keeps silent. I assume the risk and I pay. If I were not willing to do so, I would now be writing an ode in praise of the Generalissimo. When one has some training in poetic technique, it is not particularly difficult to compose fine-sounding, rhythmical praise of *The Glorious Hero.*

The Baltic states—Estonia, Lithuania, and Latvia—lie, as we know, on the edge of the great mainland of the continent. A gulf separates them from Finland; the Baltic Sea, from Sweden. Their inhabitants are not Slavic. The language of the Estonians is related to Finnish. The Lithuanian and Latvian tongues, which resemble each other, still constitute a linguistic riddle; no one knows the original home of these tribes who found their way to the lower reaches of the Niemen and Dvina rivers. We know only that the exterminated Prussians spoke a similar language. Of the three Baltic nations, only the Lithuanians succeeded in the past in creating and maintaining for a certain time a large state whose borders extended to the Dnieper.

These three sparsely settled countries underwent an intensive colonization, chiefly German and Polish, which marked the advance of Christianity. The result was

21: Kolarz J-4 (no date) 1952 R1 Soviet Union
Karelians R65
Baltic Countries R81

K. 162 and Karelian plays.[21] If these figures reflect the ethnical composition of Karelia more or less accurately, they would mean that the Karelo-Finnish element has been reduced to one-quarter of the total population of the country.

III. THE BALTIC SOVIET REPUBLICS

Ba. 101 Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania are usually linked together under the collective name of 'Baltic States', but there is a considerable difference between Latvia and Estonia on the one hand and Lithuania on the other.

The common fate which befell the three Baltic sovereign States in 1939–40 established an understandable feeling of solidarity between the populations of these countries annexed by Soviet Russia; yet historically and culturally a considerable cleavage exists between the Lithuanians and the other two Baltic nations. In the first place the Lithuanians having formed part of the medieval Lithuanian-Russian State are historically more closely connected with the Russians than the Latvians or the Estonians. Secondly, the majority of Lithuanians have not been exposed to the same strong German influence as Latvians or Estonians. The three peoples, however, have in common their ties with the West to which the Lithuanians are linked by their Roman Catholic religion.

In their relationship to Russia the three Baltic countries also fulfil different functions. Latvia and Estonia serve Russia as a way of access to the Baltic Sea and Lithuania acts primarily as a bulwark against Polish nationalism.

TWO RUSSIAN METHODS

Ba. 175 177 The history of the Baltic Provinces shows that Russians have applied both harsh and lenient methods in the endeavour to keep them under their rule. The 'harsh method' was used by Ivan the Terrible during the Livonian War which lasted twenty-five years (1558–83). Soviet historians paid special attention to Ivan's Baltic policy and one of them, P. Y. Vipper, even described the Livonian War as a 'just war, not a war of aggression'. Ivan's way in dealing with the occupied Eastern Livonia – Eastern Estonia and Eastern Latvia in terms of modern geography – consisted in energetic measures of assimilation, in distributing the confiscated land among Russian boyars and in building Russian Orthodox Churches in the conquered towns.[22] In brief, Ivan ignored the wishes of the occupied Baltic territories and set out to establish a truly Russian order. Vipper, who mentions all these facts in his biography of Ivan, fails to conclude from them that they accounted for the termination of Russian rule in Livonia.

Peter the Great, who, 150 years after Ivan the Terrible annexed

21: Kolarz J-4 (no date) 1952 R1 Soviet Union R1
Baltic Countries RB2

Estonia and parts of Latvia to the Russian Empire, acted differently and left intact the internal order which he had found there. Peter and his successors, who enlarged Russia's Baltic domain, respected that order with all its shortcomings, especially the tyrannic rule exercised by a German Baltic upper class over Latvians and Estonians. This policy of non-interference was observed to the end of the nineteenth century, up to the reign of Czar Alexander III who curbed the influence of the German Baltic barons and embarked on a policy of Russification.

The Soviet régime faithfully copied the 'iron hand' method of Ivan the Terrible in all questions concerning the internal administration of the Baltic Provinces, but at the same time took over the imperialistic will of Peter the Great as far as the Baltic Sea was concerned. The men in the Kremlin, therefore, never considered the loss of the Baltic Provinces after the October Revolution as the last word of history. They always felt that the separation from Russia of the Baltic coastal areas ran contrary to the lessons of history and geography. Although recognizing the independence of the Baltic States *de jure* and concluding non-aggression treaties with them the Soviet ruling circles never accepted their independence *de facto*. No Russian communist was able to reconcile himself lightheartedly to the establishment of bourgeois régimes in the Baltic countries. The revolutionary movements of Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania had been organically linked with Russian Bolshevism, and the failure of the Baltic communists to stay in power was thus an implicit failure of the Russian Soviet Government. It was bound to be avenged at an opportune moment.

THE BALTIC DIASPORA IN THE U.S.S.R.

In the inter-war period the Soviet leaders and even the Russian people could never lose sight of the Baltic problem since a large number of Latvians, Estonians and Lithuanians continued to live in their midst despite the existence of independent Baltic States. Latvians, Estonians and Lithuanians, the latter to a lesser extent, were 'peoples of the Soviet Union' long before the transformation of the Baltic countries into Soviet Republics.

It is true that there was no 'Little Latvia' or 'Little Estonia' in the form of a special territorial unit within the framework of the U.S.S.R. on the same lines as 'Little Rumania' – the Moldavian A.S.S.R. or 'Little Finland' – the Karelian A.S.S.R. None the less the tens of thousands of Latvians and Estonians who were scattered all over the Soviet Union fulfilled the same propaganda functions as those exercised in other cases by special Autonomous Republics.

The Baltic diaspora in the Soviet Union had various origins. There was first of all a strong Latvian and Estonian peasant immigration into